

[being a decoding method of moving image signal for] the method comprising the steps of:

decoding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to [the present processing] a pixel block of the stream of pixel blocks of a present frame;

compensating the motion of [the] at least two previously decoded image frames stored in a memory with respect to a corresponding [to each one of said] one of the at least two [or more] motion vectors [and];

generating a [two or more] predicted [images] image from each of the at least two previously decoded image frames for reconstructing [relating to] the pixel block of the present [processing pixel block] frame,

wherein the predicted image used in reconstruction of the present [processing] pixel block is selected depending on the presence or absence of decoding error contained in said [two or more] predicted images.

2. (Amended) A [decoding] method of decoding a moving image signal of claim 1, wherein if [there are] plural predicted images are free from decoding error in said [two or more] predicted images,

the predicted image produced from the latest decoded frame in time out of said [plural] predicted images free from decoding error is used in reconstruction of the present processing pixel block.

3. (Amended) A method of coding [method of] a moving image signal, the image signal being a stream of pixel blocks segregated into image frames, at least two decoded image frames being temporarily stored in a memory [being a coding method of moving image signal] for detecting and coding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block, [characterized by] comprising the steps of:

inter-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation of the at least two [or more predicted] images in memory when compensated of motion by

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9 said at least two [or more] motion vectors is [high] greater than a predetermined value,
10 and

11 intra-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation of
12 the at least [said] two [or more predicted] images in memory when compensated of
13 motion by said at least two vectors is [low] less than a predetermined value.

1 4. (Amended) A [coding] method of coding a moving image signal, the
2 image signal being a stream of pixel blocks segregated into image frames, [being a
3 coding method of moving image signal] for detecting and coding at least two [or more]
4 motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block, [characterized by]
5 comprising the steps of:

6 storing at least two decoded image frames being temporarily stored in a
7 memory;

8 [using] selecting [the] a predicted image produced from the latest
9 decoded frame in time out of at least two [or more predicted] images in memory when
10 compensated of motion by said at least two [or more] motion vectors; and

11 [is used in] coding [of] the present processing pixel block in accordance
12 with the selected predicted image.

1 5. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] comprising:

3 variable length code decoding means for decoding at least two [or more]
4 motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block,

5 motion compensation means for compensating the motion of a previously
6 coded frame [corresponding] with respect to each one of said at least two [or more]

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7 motion vectors, and generating at least two [or more] predicted images relating to the
8 present processing pixel block,

9 bit error detecting means for detecting a bit error from the output of said
10 variable length code decoding means,

11 memory means for storing the bit error [detecting result] of said bit error
12 detecting means, and

13 predicted image selecting means for recognizing the presence or absence
14 of decoding error contained in said at least two [or more] predicted images, and
15 selecting the predicted image to be used in reconstruction of the present processing
16 pixel block.

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1 6. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] of claim 5, wherein the bit error detecting means [detects] indicates a bit
3 error in the present processing pixel block when the variable length code of the pixel
4 block decoded by the variable length code decoding means is contradictory to a
5 specified standard.

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1 7. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] of claim 5, wherein the memory means stores the bit errors [in] of plural
3 frames by plotting the pixel blocks in which bit error is detected in each frame in a map
4 form.

1 8. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] of claim 7, wherein the memory means comprises plural decoding error
3 map memories storing each frame consecutive in time, and [also has] changeover
4 means, [and therefore] said plural decoding error map memories [are] being changed
5 over by said changeover means, and issued.

1 9. (Amended) A moving image signal coding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] comprising:

3 motion vector detecting means for detecting at least two [or more] motion
4 vectors relating to the present processing pixel block,

5 motion compensation means for issuing plural predicted images based on
6 stored images from the output of said motion vector detecting means, and

7 intra/inter judging means for inter-coding the present processing pixel
8 block when the correlation [of] at least two [or more] predicted images compensated of
9 motion by said at least two [or more] motion vectors as the output of said motion
10 compensation means is [high] greater than a predetermined value, and intra-coding the
11 present processing pixel block when the correlation of said at least two [or more]
12 predicted images is [low] less than a predetermined value.

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cont 1 10. (Amended) A moving image signal coding apparatus [of moving
2 image signal] of claim 9, further comprising:

3 predicted image combining means for combining the at least two [or
4 more] predicted images compensated by said at least two [or more] motion vectors, and

5 prediction error calculating means for calculating the prediction error
6 from the output of said predicted image combining means and [the] a macro block of
7 the present frame,

8 wherein the intra/inter judging means judges before processing by
9 comparing the variance of present processing pixel block and the variance of prediction
10 error from the output of the prediction error calculating means to judge processing
11 before intra/inter coding, and processes next intra/inter judgement only when judged to
12 be inter-coding.